

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, May 17, 2010, 4:30pm, at Lilly Nature Center.

Present at said meeting were Karen Springer, Mary Nauman, Richard Shockley, Pat Flannelly, John MacDonald and Attorney Andy Gutwein. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Brenda Lorenz and Dan Dunten represented the department. Present from the City was Council President Ann Hunt. Absent from the meeting were Council members Gerald Thomas and Gerry Keen, and from the department, Cheryl Kolb and Lee Booth.

Karen convened the Board at 4:35 pm.

The first item of the agenda was the approval of the minutes from April 19, 2010 meeting. Karen made a correction to the School Board Report; instead of the word retirement, it should be increment. Richard motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Pat seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.
- Dispersed copies of the new Trail Guide

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- Softball league play started last Monday. We got all the games in last week except for two men's games on Monday because we had problems with the lights, which are fixed now. Games for tonight have been cancelled due to the weather.
- We received a \$2500 donation from the Vectren Foundation for Global Fest. To date the Mayor has raised \$5,225. Last year at this time, we had raised \$10,000. The second round of request for donations will go out this week. Our next Global Fest meeting is Friday, June 4.
- Softball Field Maintenance Audits for the Arni Cohen fields and Blessed Sacrament field were presented.

Parks – Pennie reported in Lee's absence on the following:

- Trail and Playground Inspections were presented
- Still getting the pool ready for opening, Health Inspection is Thursday, May 20
- Finished preparing softball fields
- Margerum fountain is running now
- Cleaning up and mulching landscaped beds
- Trying to keep equipment running

Recreation Report – Chris reported on the following:

- Pool staff has been hired and is working on preparing the pool. The staff will also have two in-service training sessions prior to the opening. Splash Bash is our official opening of the summer season and end of the school. Splash Bash will be held on Friday, May 28 from 1-4 pm with a special admission price of \$1.
- Public Swim will be from 1-4:50 pm and 6-7:50 pm. The Adult Lap swim program will begin on Tuesday, June 1 and will continue through the end of the season, which is Sunday, August 15.

- Registration for summer program has begun. Swim lessons, tennis and the Playground program (a type of summer day camp) continue to be popular.

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- The Registration total for the winter/spring session at Morton was 1,479. Last year's total was 1,366. That is an eight percent increase from last year.
- The Mor'Danc'n Dance Recital was well attended on Saturday, May 1. We were happy that the recital was featured on the front cover of the TGIF section of *The Journal and Courier* on April 30. We estimate that 950 people attended. The number does include approximately 230 dancers.
- Active Living and Senior Fun Day was held on Wednesday, May 12. Approximately 262 seniors attended the movie and visited the wellness booths in the lobby. One hundred and fifty seniors attended the free lunch and health presentation at the rain location of the Home Economics Building at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds.
- Tippecanoe County received a \$25,000 grant to improve polling places before the November general election. The County will be installing one and possibly two automatic door openers at Morton. One will be installed at the Southeast entrance to Morton. They may also install one at the North entrance. Both of these entrances are handicapped accessible entrances.
- Wednesday, Morton will be at the West Lafayette Farmers Market. An instructor from the KidzArt program will be there to offer some type of art and craft activity for kids. Some of Joy McEwen's dance students will do a dance number at 4:30. I will be there and Paula Woods is going to volunteer some time at the booth to promote Morton's classes as well.

Old Business

Boathouse Lease

Joe presented three copies of the Lease that was discussed last month, approved, and signed by the Redevelopment Commission. It allows the Parks Department to manage the one bay, which is a community bay. He requested that the Board approve the Lease so when the project is finished we will be able to go in and "finish filling it out." There is still working going on in the building itself. A lot of clearing has been done of invasive species, bush honeysuckle and various trees plus a lot of clean up of hazard hanging limbs and broken trees. When weather permits, asphalt will be put on what is now a stone ramp that gets down to the bottom of the property, and the plastic component dock system, that the crew requested, has been purchased by the Redevelopment Commission and delivered. When they get time, they will put it together. They will be paying utilities for the building. The community room will be set up with a separate key and separate restroom inside, one for each gender. There are five bays with huge overhead doors, the sixty-foot rowing shells will be stored in three of the bays, one of those bays is a repair and work bay and the other bay is a community bay which is not as big as the other bays because it incorporates restrooms. We will tour the facility once it is officially turned over. Mary motioned to approve the Boathouse Lease. Richard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Riverfest

The Board received a request from the Riverfest Committee to allow them to offer a 'moon walk' and pony rides at Tapawingo Park during Riverfest on July 10. Richard motioned to allow Riverfest to offer the rides at Tapawingo Park during Riverfest on July 10. Pat seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Rules and Procedures

Andy reported to the Board on last month's concern about the golfer in the park. Currently in place is City Code Ordinances that govern the use of the Parks. One of those is 'Disorderly Conduct' that says that you cannot act in any way to disturb the peace, nor shall any person engage in any active game endangering other persons in the Parks. Andy thought this addressed the golf situation, since golf is an active game and you could hit someone with a golf ball. The question then becomes who enforces it. Andy said the Department would probably contact the Police Department and they would enforce since it was a City Ordinance and they have the power to enforce it. If the Park Board would be interested in adopting additional rules or up dating rules there a couple different direction they could go. In the past, the concern would go to the City Council and they would up-date ordinances and they would become city code. There is some Statutory Authority that would give the Park Board authority to create rules to govern the Parks.

He did talk with Eric Burns, the City's Attorney, because the City is in the process of reviewing the City Code as a whole. They are planning to do it in a two-phase review; the first phase would be just to review the content for any typographical errors, scrivener errors or maybe a double use of a term occurring in two places or organization issues, that might make the code easier to read without changing any of the content. They plan to do that and then bring the updated ordinance back to the departments and City Council and suggested that they be reviewed with the understanding that the intent was to not change any of the content but merely to update it as readability. The second phase then would be to ask for feed back from the Departments and City Council for substance and if there was anything that needed to be updated. It would be appropriate for the Board to review over the next several months the existing City Ordinance to see if there are any items that need to be updated. Mary suggested that it be added to the agenda. Joe suggested that once we received the revisions that might be the time to add it to the agenda.

Joe said in regards to that that we have asked for a definition on what is a skiff of snow. Since we do a lot of snow removal, there are City Ordinances that are being enforced more stringently, it says you are suppose to be out within 24 hours of a skiff of snow. In our minds, that is a half inch to an inch. We do not want to have to pay our people overtime to come in over the weekend to do snow removal. We want to be playing by the same rules that property owners are.

Joe mentioned that we also post our regulations on the trails and expect people to pay attention to them. Andy thought that the trail would be considered part of parks property so it would be subject to the same ordinance as a regular park would be.

Mary requested that the Board look at hours of operation of the ice rink, the rules and procedures, if enrollment is increasing or decreasing, and what it cost to operate and do

the same thing for the pool and all of our facilities. After some discussion, it was decided that the staff would bring additional information to the Board. Karen suggested we add the review of the skate center to our June agenda and the Board could share concerns they have heard from the community. It was then decided that we do a review of the pool at the September Board meeting and do a review of the ice rink at the October meeting that will be held at the rink. Mary suggested we also review the playground program as far as quality of service and revenue. Chris suggested that she would try to gather some information for the Board for the next meeting.

Pat would like to meet with Joe to be educated on the Pony League program. He also suggested that signs with contact information be posted in our restrooms in case of emergencies. It was also suggested that we change our office message to include an emergency contact number.

New Business

Guidelines to Researchers

John presented the Guidelines, noting that during his years of experience doing research in the National Parks he has seen what happens when you have a bad researcher and what happens when you have a good researcher and felt that there needed to be something structured pertaining to research projects in the parks. The guidelines have actually been extracted from the National Park Service website. Mary motioned to approve the Guidelines to Researchers with modifications from Dan. Richard seconded the motion, and the motion carried. It was suggested that a copy of the Guidelines be posted on the City's web site. Joe suggested that a page be added for program presenters, that it must be presented to the Park Board.

Celery Bog Nature Area Restoration Update Dan Dunten gave the following report: Grass and wildflower seed were planted on the east side of the entrance drive last fall and are starting to grow. The savanna area south of the Nature Center will be sprayed to remove most things growing there and then grass and wildflower seed will be drilled in. It usually takes three years for these plants to become fully established.

A rain garden is being established and will hopefully be completed by the end of next week, if the weather cooperates. Plans are still underway to install a webcam over the bog and for development of demonstration parking spots with pervious concrete.

The section of the Northwest Greenway Trail on the east and north side of the cemetery will be cleaned up and planted. The invasive plants will be ground up and sprayed and then next year several trees and varieties of grass and wildflowers will be planted.

He worked with students in a Purdue Communication class to produce ten educational posters that will be displayed in kiosks and in the Nature Center.

West Lafayette School Board – Karen reported the following:

- The 2009-10 School Year is rapidly coming to a close with the last day of school for students being Thursday, May 27. High School Graduation will be Saturday, May 29 at 7 pm.
- The referendum did pass and they will be requesting an advanced draw on the money, which is not available until 2011, so they can call back the teachers they have had to 'RIF'.
- The West Lafayette School Corporation has been recognized as one of the best communities for music education K-12 in America by the National Association of Music Merchants. West Lafayette is one of 174 chosen nationwide and one of two chosen in Indiana.

Wabash River

Richard did not attend the meeting but he did talk with Stan Lambert. There are several negotiations going on for land purchases that will be made public shortly.

Other**Tommy Johnston Park**

Joe said there is potential to relocate Tommy Johnston Park location to another location that would be more valuable to families and kids. To start the process, you first have to get the money to use to develop the new park that is equal or greater size and amounts of facilities. The conversion has to be approved by the Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service and the Department of Interior; Land and Water Funds were used in the development of that park, and you always have to maintain the value of those funds in perpetuity. We now have another opportunity to pursue that. Rocky has discussed it with the School Board with the possibility of moving Tommy Johnston Park to the southeast corner of the Burtfield site next to the Burtfield gym. We would program it and operate it. It would help tie into the Burtfield facility without taking away the open space that is used by Grid Iron and soccer on occasion. There is a positive response from an ad-hoc discussion with the School Board about doing that. He now needs to know whether this Park Board thinks it is a good idea. We see it as a way of putting a park in an area that could use one that provides playground equipment for kids and a shelter in a neighborhood that has families. Development would provide funds for the consultant to conduct the conversion process, probably a six-month process; we would sign all papers and then move forward and probably develop a park there, if it all went as we anticipate, the following year. The proceeds from sale of the current park site might be moved through the city budget or the Park Foundation budget, but regardless there would be money coming in and that property would be developed. The School Corporation has been very cooperative with the City and there have been other deals with property and drainage projects, tearing down Burtfield, Salisbury reconstruction, fixing the big mudslide on the school property next to Happy Hollow Park; it would resolve this issue to benefit the community, family, and kids. Joe thinks it is a good idea that is worth pursuing; it would not cost us any money, but it certainly would take some staff time involvement. If the Park Board is good to go with it, we can start the procedure and the School Board can be more formally asked to say "yes," this seems to be worth proceeding with. The park department would own the park. The School Corporation would have to sell the property to the Park Board, for

possibly a dollar. After some discussion, Richard motioned to proceed with the process. Pat seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Redevelopment Commission

The Commission meeting will be tomorrow morning at 8:30. Joe will be giving them the update on the Riverside Skating Center. They have met with the contractor and the insurance people there and representative of the Redevelopment Commission. We are asking them to proceed to do the permanent repair, putting in steel 'u' joints in instead of plastic ones that are failing in the ends of the rink where the coolant runs through and take credit back on the ice mat we used this past year. Funds would come from the Levee/Village TIF District Fund. If the Commission agrees, we are good to go since all this was in the original contract when they helped us buy the ice mat. We could get a trade back for half the value against the permanent repair. The permanent repair is estimated to cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000. There is a warranty period for the repair. Richard asked if it would be worth keeping the mat. Joe said it was part of the original contract to trade it back.

Other items that will be discussed are future budget for two phases of the Wabash Heritage Trail development. The first phase is set for a July 7 letting, with construction to start in September and to be finished before the students return next summer.

Pay Claims

Mary motioned for claims to be paid. Richard seconded the motion, and the motion carried

Karen noted next month's meeting would be June 21 at City Hall.

Adjourn

Richard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mary seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Presiding Officer

Secretary